

REMARKS

Claims 11-18 are pending. Claim 18 has been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection. No new matter is presented.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 18 has been amended, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Jouper, U.S. Patent 5,754,445. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 recites a method for the remote feed of a number of simultaneous users from one energy source. Jouper discloses a load distribution and management system (LDMS) in which, with the aid of a power distribution circuit 12, the power supply is controlled by several power units coupled to the power distribution circuit. The power distribution circuit performs four main functions. It monitors the total amount of energy required for the power units 14 connected to it, it determines whether additional energy is available and displays this, it determines and displays the system status, and prevents additional energy consumption in the event that no additional energy is available. Jouper only discloses monitoring the total amount of energy consumption of several power units 14 coupled to the power distribution circuits (col. 5, lines 19-25). However, these power units *do not* correspond to the claimed users for the following reasons.

Several electronic devices 32 are normally connected to the individual power units, but, according to Jouper, their individual energy supplies and/or power supplies are not controlled. However, according to the claimed invention, the power supply of each of the respective end users, i.e., the individual users, is monitored and controlled chronologically.

According to the claimed invention, several users to be supplied with energy simultaneously are connected to the energy source in chronological sequence and monitored with regard to their power consumption, whereby the power supply is controlled in a targeted manner.

Once a specific waiting time for monitoring errors has passed, at the end of which the feed current, which is at a maximum value, is returned to a standard value, the next user is coupled to the energy source. The chronologically staggered coupling of the individual users to the energy source, wherein a feed current is limited to a maximum value, is initially applied during each individual connecting procedure and, following the expiration of a specific waiting time, the feed current is returned to a standard value. This is clearly not shown in Jouper.

Jouper only discloses monitoring the total energy consumption of all power units coupled in parallel, whereby the individual power units cannot be equated with the actual users' "electronic devices." According to Jouper, the connection of another user to the energy source is made possible only when the load distribution and management system determines and displays that additional energy is available (col. 9, line 51 – col. 10, line 31).

In conclusion, the LDMS described in Jouper only monitors the total energy consumption of the connected users, so that when a maximum value is exceeded, an additional user cannot be coupled to the LDMS until the measured total energy consumption has been reduced again to a preset value (col. 11, lines 1-9). This is not equivalent to the chronologically staggered connection of several users, each having chronologically controlled power supply and monitoring.

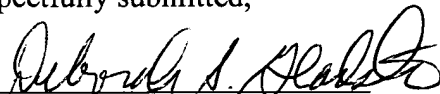
For the foregoing reasons, the features of claim 11-18 are not taught or suggested by Jouper. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **449122030500**.

Dated: June 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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